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FOR ASST SEC SISCO

FOL TEL SENT SECSTATE, DIA INFO ALGIERS, AMMAN, JIDDA, KUWAIT,
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BAGHDAD UNN FROM BEIRUT 131536 Z APR 73

QUOTE: BEIRUT 4352

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, LE, US, IS

SUBJECT: DEVELOPMENTS IN WAKE OF APR 10 ISRAELI RAID ON BEIRUT

REF: BEIRUT 4275

SUMMARY: BEIRUT'S APR 12 MASS FUNERAL DEMONSTRATION IN
SUPPORT OF FEDAYEEN WAS RATHER IMPRESSIVE ON THE WHOLE, BOTH
IN SIZE OF TURN- OUT AND IN ORDERLY MANNER IN WHICH IT CON-
DUCTED. ANTI- GOL AND ANTI- US PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN BY FEDAYEEN,
THEIR LOCAL SYMPATHIZERS AND CERTAIN ARAB GOVTS CONTINUES GROW
IN VIRULENCE. END SUMMARY.

1. BY ALL ACCOUNTS, APR 12 FUNERALS OF FEDAYEEN LEADERS
KILLED IN APR 10 ISRAELI RAID ON BEIRUT SAW TURN- OUT OF ONE OF
LARGEST CROWDS TO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN ANY SINGLE MASS DEMON-
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STATION HERE IN LIVING MEMORY. OUR BEST ESTIMATE OF NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IS AROUND 100,000, POSSIBLE MORE, AND IT INCLUDED NOT ONLY PALESTINIANS AND THEIR LOCAL LEFTIST SYMPATHIZERS BUT PERSONALITIES REPRESENTING VIRTUALLY ALL OTHER LEBANESE POLITICAL GROUPINGS AS WELL. WE IMPRESSED (AND RELIEVED) BY FACT THAT WHOLE AFFAIR WENT OFF IN UNUSUALLY ORDERLY FASHION, WITH NO RPT NO SHOOTING DURING EMOTIONAL CEREMONIES AND PROCESSIONS IN CITY CENTER AND ONLY SCATTERED OUTBREAKS OF UNCONTROLLED FIRING AT CEMETERY PROPER. LEBANESE AUTHORITIES AND FEDAYEEN LEADERS OBVIOUSLY WORKED HARD KEEP CROWDS IN LINE, AND THEIR EFFORTS GENERALLY SUCCEEDED. NO INCIDENTS OCCURRED, ALTHOUGH GOL SECURITY FORCES WERE SCARCELY IN EVIDENCE AND FEDAYEEN THEMSELVES ASSUMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR CROWD AND TRAFFIC CONTROL BOTH DOWNTOWN AND ALONG LINES OF MARCH. PROMINENT PERSONS FROM OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES WERE VISIBLE AMONG MOURNERS, WHILE FEDAYEEN LUMINARIES-- E. G., ' ARAFAT AND SALAH KHALAF-- WERE PRESENT ONLY AT GRAND MOSQUE AND/ OR GRAVESITES. OTHER LARGE DEMONSTRATIONS INVOLVING TOTAL OF PERHAPS ANOTHER 100,000 PERSONS TOOK PLACE SIMULTANEOUSLY IN TRIPOLI, SIDON, TYRE, NABATIYYAH AND OTHE PROVINCIAL CENTERS IN LEBANON.

2. WHILE BULK OF CROWD' S CHANTING AND SLOGANEERING APPEARED DIRECTED AGAINST LEBANESE AUTHORITIES (PM SALAM, IN PARTICULAR) FOR THEIR ALLEGED SUPINENESS DURING IDF RAID, THERE WERE PLENTY OF SHOUTS FOR REMOVAL OF ALL RESTRICTIONS ON FEDAYEEN ACTIVITY AND EXCORIATIONS OF " REACTIONARY" ARAB REGIMES AND USG. MANY SLOGANS, OBVIOUSLY PRODUCT OF " BIG LIE" RE U. S. COMPLICITY PUT OUT BY FEDAYEEN, FOCUSED ON SUCH THEMES AS: " THEY CAME NOT FROM SEA NOR BY AIR, BUT FROM AMERICAN EMBASSY" AND " EMBASSY GAVE THEM CARS AND IS HIDING THEM". LEBANESE LEFTIST LEADERS, MOST PROMINENT OF WHOM IS KAMAL JUMBLATT, HAVE BEEN QUICK TO PARROT SAME GENERAL LINE. JUMBLATT GAVE SPEECH APR 12 AND HELD PRESS CONFERENCE APR 13 AT WHICH HE SPOUTED STANDARD LEFTIST LINE. MEETING OF HIS " ARAB FRONT FOR SUPPORT OF PALESTINE RESISTANCE" SET FOR APR 14.

3. ALTHOUGH APR 12 BRAY STATEMENT (STATE 068428) REPEATING OUR DENIAL OF COMPLICITY IN ISRAELI RAID WAS CARRIED BY ALMOST ALL PAPERS HERE APR 13, MANY PAPERS GAVE PARTICULAR EMPHASIS TO HIS CALL ON ARAB GOVTS TO EXERT BETTER CONTROL OVER FEDAYEEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROPAGANDA IN THEIR OFFICIAL MEDIA. IMPACT OF HIS STATEMENT,

AS FAR AS TREATMENT IN LEFTIST PRESS CONCERNED, IS BEING USED CONFIRM FAVORITE ILLUSION THAT USG TRYING BY ALL POSSIBLE MEANS TO FORCE ARAB GOVTS TO " MUZZLE" FEDAYEEN AND THEREBY COLLABORATE IN " LIQUIDATING" COMMANDO MOVEMENT. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE NOTE ' ARAFAT HIMSELF HAS FELT EMBOLDENED REITERATE HIS " BIG LIE" AND EMBELLISH IT EVEN FURTHER (BEIRUT 4313), AND THAT GOVT- CONTROLLED MEDIA IN VARIOUS ARAB COUNTRIES HAS WHOLEHEARTEDLY JOINED FEDAYEEN- INSPIRED RADIO AND PRESS IN HAMMERING AWAY AT THIS SUBJECT.

4. OFFICIAL IRAQI PRESS AND RADIO HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY VIRULENT IN THIS REGARD, SHRIEKING FOR " PALESTINIAN AND ARAB MASSES" TO STRIKE AT AMERICAN INTERESTS EVERYWHERE AS " PUNISHMENT" FOR " CRIMINAL ROLE" ALLEGEDLY PLAYED HERE BY U. S. ON APR 10 AND URGING VIOLENT RETALIATION AGAINST ANY ARAB GOVT, INCLUDING LEBANON, WHICH DARES OBSTRUCT SUCH ACTIVITY. TONE OF OFFICIAL SYRIAN MEDIA HAS BEEN ONLY SLIGHTLY Milder, LINKING " INDISPUTABLE" U. S. INVOLVEMENT IN APR 10 ATTACK TO " ZIONIST- IMPERIALIST PLOT" TO ELIMINATE FEDAYEEN PRESENCE IN LEBANON AND ELSEWHERE, AND CALLING ON ALL ARABS TO ENTER " BATTLE" IMMEDIATELY. AT SAME TIME, WE HAVE SEEN NO SLACKENING IN VITUPERATION STEAMING OUT FROM VOICE OF PALESTINE (OVER FACILITIES PROVIDED, INTER ALIA, BY BAGHDAD, DAMASCUS, AND ALGIERS), WHOSE FRENETIC OUTPUT (FBIS)122000) IS SPICED WITH INCREASINGLY STRIDENT STATEMENTS ISSUED HERE BY LEBANESE " NATIONALIST- PROGRESSIVE FORCES" (FBIS M121440 AND M121823)-- ALL OF WHICH CONTAIN DISGUSTINGLY BLATANT AND INFLAMMATORY MATERIAL AIMED AT INCITING " MASSES" AGAINST GOL, U. S., " CAPITULATORY" PEACE SETTLEMENTS, AND ANY RESORT TO RATIONALITY IN GENERAL. IN THIS FRENZIED ATMOSPHERE, IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT EFFORTS BY USG, INCLUDING SCALI AND SISCO STATEMENTS, WILL BE ABLE TO STEM ARAB EMOTIONAL BINGE AND TENDENCY BELIEVE THE WORST, ALTHOUGH THEY MAY SLOW IT SOMEWHAT.

5. COMMENT: AS REPORTED OUR 4307, THIS INCREASES PROBLEM OF PRESIDENT FRANGIE IN DEALING WITH GOVERNMENTAL CRISIS. BUFFUM UNQUOTE ROGERS

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